

BIG VALLEY GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# BUILT TO LAST

## WEEKLY TEACHING COMPANION



# 1: TRUST IN THE LORD

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. Read Isaiah 26:1-12 in at least two different versions.
3. How would you describe your family's view toward money and generosity?
4. Billy Graham said, "You tell me what you think about money, and I will tell you what you think about God." How does your attitude toward money define your spiritual walk with the Lord?
5. What verses in this passage capture your attention? Why?
6. How has the Lord kept you in perfect peace? What situations have you faced where you have sought the peace of the Lord and found it?
7. What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

## PRAYER FOCUS

Thank You, Father, for the blessing of peace that keeps my heart quiet and at rest as I trust in You! You have been my solid and everlasting rock. You have been my provider and protector. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your blessing of care in my life! AMEN.



**"When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous. Now, if that man, when he gets all he can and saves all he can does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man!"**

*John Wesley*

## 2: EQUIPPING

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-16 in at least two different versions.
3. Why is it smart to be generous?
4. What is the Apostle Paul's passion for each of us? (v. 1-3)
5. What unites us as a family of God? (v. 4-6)
6. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts and how has the Lord gifted you to be a functional member of the body of Christ? (v. 7-13)
7. How do we each play a role in building up the Body of Christ?
8. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank you for how You made me! Thank You for the friends and teachers that You have brought into my life to help me be who I am today. Lord, I know that I am Your workmanship, hand designed for Your Kingdom purposes. As I walk with You today, lead me, guide me, help me to be attentive to your promptings and be Your agent of grace in someone's life today. AMEN.



**“As God’s children, we are not to be observers; we’re to participate actively in the Lord’s work. Spectators sit and watch, but we are called to use our spiritual gifts and serve continually”**

*Charles Stanley*

### 3: FAITH

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. What came out of your action step from last week?
3. Read Hebrews 11:1-12:2.
4. How does the writer define “faith”?
5. What are the necessary elements that characterize a faith that pleases God?
6. Which story captures your attention and imagination? Why?
7. What sacrifices did these “heroes of the faith” make as they endeavored to be obedient to the Lord’s call in their life? Why were these “heroes” willing to say “yes” to the Lord’s call?
8. Describe a time when you responded to the Holy Spirit and went out on a limb trusting God? What happened?
9. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank You that You are a God who sees and cares and that You are able to take small things and accomplish great things for Your Kingdom work. Lord, help me to walk confidently and boldly with You, trusting You for the fruit of my life. AMEN.



**“In God’s eyes, the greatest heroes of faith are not those who achieve prosperity, success, and power in this life, but those who treat life as a temporary assignment and serve faithfully, expecting their promised reward in eternity.”**

*Rick Warren,  
What On Earth Am I Here For?*

## 4: BUILT TO LAST

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. What came out of your action step from last week?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23.
4. How does God measure generosity?
5. What hinders our ability to grow in our relationship with Christ?
6. How was your foundation in Christ laid? Who were some of the key men/women that God strategically placed in your life to help you be established in Him?
7. What characterizes one's life work as being a treasure that survives testing or chaff that blows away?
8. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank You that even a cup of cold water given in the name of Jesus has an eternal reward! Thank You that every act that is done in secret has Your attention and receives Your applause! Help me, Lord, to build upon the foundation that You have laid in me through Your Son. Help my life today to count for You! AMEN.



**“As base a thing as money often is, yet it can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor. It can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.”**

*A. W. Tozer*

## 5: DECAYING CULTURE

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. What came out of your action step from last week?
3. Read Romans 1:16-2:4.
4. Why is it genius to be generous?
5. How have you experienced the power of God in and through your life?
6. Describe what it means to have a holy, reverential, fear of God? What benefit comes from fearing God?
7. What characterizes a thankful heart? How can we develop a greater heart and life of thanksgiving?
8. In reading this passage, it is easy to think and judge others who are trapped in sin. However, how should this passage speak to us and warn us regarding our own lives?
9. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank You that You are worthy of my worship and the dedication of my life. Lord, take my life and let it be, wholly consecrated to Thee. Help me to swim against the tide of the culture around me. Lord, use me to be a rescuer of those caught in the current that is heading for destruction. AMEN.



**“The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”**

*Oswald Chambers*

## 6: BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. What came out of your action step from last week?
3. Read Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:19-24; Mark 12:41-44.
4. How does being generous connect us to the character of God?
5. What ought to drive the giving of my financial resources?
6. How does giving of one's financial resources reflect the Lordship of Christ in one's life and a life of obedience and biblical faith?
7. How is giving by faith an expression of trusting in the promises of God? What are some of those promises from scripture that encourage you in your giving by faith?
8. What has God deposited into your life and asked you to steward? Make a list.
9. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank You that though the things of this world will perish and come to an end, that which is done for You becomes a treasure that lasts forever! Thank You that my life is not meaningless, and though rich or poor, gifts given great or small, all is amply rewarded and everything will be worth it all when we see You! AMEN.



**"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small."**

*C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

## 7: GOD'S PROVISION

1. Before you read this passage of scripture, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to His word, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and lead you into truth, to reveal any sin or barriers in your relationship with Him, and for wisdom in applying and obeying His truth in your life.
2. What came out of your action step from last week?
3. Read Isaiah 26:1-12.
4. What are some life lessons you have learned and experienced during this series, Built to Last?
5. How has the Lord been a “solid rock” in your life experiences?
6. How does the Lord establish peace in us?
7. What verse(s) stand out to you as you read this passage? What action step may the Lord be calling you to implement this coming week?

### PRAYER FOCUS

Father in heaven, thank You for the privilege of being a part of Your kingdom work. Thank You for the opportunity for my family and I to be a part of someone's answered prayer! Father, You have been so generous to me and my family. All that I have needed, You have provided. Heavenly Father, life is short, eternity is forever! Father, as You have been generous to me, may my life be a fragrant blessing to others. AMEN.



**“Abundance isn’t God’s provision for me to live in luxury. It’s His provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with His money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build His kingdom in heaven.”**

*Randy Alcorn*